

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
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## ATTACHMENT F

July 12, 2007

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 86 of House Bill No. 4141, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2008 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements."

This section directs the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to establish an electronic health records task force to link information between various state offices that utilize health records, from MassHealth to commonwealth connector programs. As written, the role of the task force is unclear and could be construed to conflict with federal and state legal requirements.

I, therefore, recommend that Section 86 of House Bill No. 4141 be amended by striking out in the first sentence of subsection (a) the following words "provide a structure that enables the state to act in a leadership role in the development of state and federal standards for, and in the implementation and use of," and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

make recommendations to the secretary of health and human services with respect to

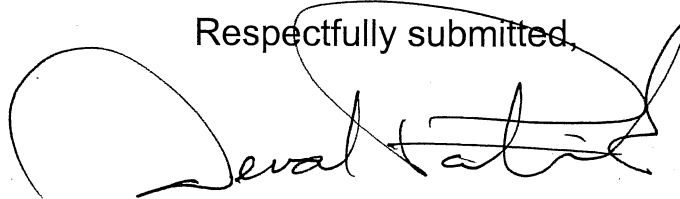
I further recommend that Section 86 of House Bill No. 4141 be amended by striking out in clause (1) of subsection (c) the word "develop" and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

study the advisability of

Finally, I recommend that Section 86 of House Bill No. 4141 be amended by striking out clause (3) of subsection (c) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

(3) make a recommendation by December 31, 2008, to the secretary of health and human services as to the advisability and feasibility of an electronic health records system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seval Habib", is written over the text "Respectfully submitted,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.